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C O P Y

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington 25, D.C.

13 February 1951

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

\*DOI Waiver Letter In ERU File\*

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Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

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My dear [REDACTED]

The fiscal predicament of the geographic name standardization work has given rise to discussions in this Department, of which you are aware, looking toward action to break the log jam.

One alternative that has been discussed would involve transferring to the CIA the conjoint responsibility for foreign names now assigned by statute to the Secretary of the Interior, on the assumption that adequate financing of this part of the program would be assured and that agency non-conformance would disappear.

This would mean that CIA would service the FNC as Interior now does, taking over the personnel and the foreign name records and resources, and meeting the over-all Federal needs for geographic name standardization.

It will be most useful in further discussions here, if CIA can indicate whether it would consider as compatible with its program the following:

1. To accept the conjoint responsibility for standardizing all foreign names;
2. To enlarge or adapt the standardization program to accommodate all other agencies;
3. To promulgate all names, as standardized, in the name of BGN;
4. To furnish information, as requested, to publishers and other non-Federal users;
5. To maintain the necessary records and supporting data;
6. To maintain contacts with name authorities in other countries or international bodies on a basis of exchange and mutual aid;
7. To house the staff and provide a meeting place for the FNC;
8. To permit personnel to identify themselves publicly with the work, and with CIA;

Since the discussions here are likely to be resumed at an early date, any answers or indications of point of view that you can give me in the near future will be most useful.

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Comment will also be welcome on any pertinent points or considerations that I have not specifically raised in this letter.

Sincerely yours, .

/s/

Meredith F. Burrill,  
Director, Division of Geography